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September 11, 2002

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To: Community Based Alternatives (CBA)
Home and Community Support Services (HCSS) Providers

Subject: Long Term Care (LTC)
Information Letter No. 02-24
CBA Rate Changes

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) approved rate changes for the Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Home and Community Support Services (HCSS) providers effective September 1, 2002. There are changes in the unit rates for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. The new rates are included on the attached Reimbursement Rate Chart, which should be substituted for section 2600 of the CBA Provider Manual until a manual revision is distributed.

All claims for services delivered on or after September 1, 2002, will be processed using the new payment rates. Claims submitted by the provider for any services delivered on or after September 1, 2002, should be prepared using the new rates.

INCENTIVE RATES

In order to comply with the General Appropriations Act, House Bill (HB) 1 of the 76th Legislature, HHSC continues to offer the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement to incentivize contracted providers to increase wages and benefits for community care attendants. The agency rules for the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement can be found in Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code §355.112. The General Appropriations Act, HB 1, of the 76th Legislature increased funding for attendant wages so that additional levels of enhanced rates could be offered to contracted providers who choose to participate in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement. Contracted providers who choose to participate must submit spending reports and must meet the spending requirements for the attendant compensation rate component or unspent revenues below the spending requirement will be recouped by the Texas Department of Human Services. Contracted providers who choose not to participate in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement will not receive the enhanced attendant rates and the attendant compensation rate component will remain constant over time, except for adjustment necessitated by increases in the federal minimum wage.

During the open enrollment in July 2002, contracted providers were offered the opportunity to enroll as participants and to select the enhanced rate level at which they desired to participate. Twenty enhanced rate levels were offered for selection; however, the actual rate level awarded is contingent on available funding. Providers participating in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement may access the Rate Analysis Department web site at www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/programs/rad/index.html to confirm the level of enhancement awarded and to verify their reimbursement rates.

Please contact Alisa Jacquet, at (512) 438-4952, if you have any questions about the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement. Please contact your contract manager if you have any further questions regarding this information letter. Contract managers should call Rudy Gomez at (512) 438-3740 if they have questions regarding this information letter.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Becky Beechinor
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Long Term Care Services

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Attachment